

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM RELOCATION
PLATTSMOUTH, NE
FEMA-4420-DR-NE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to provide Federal financial assistance for the relocation of the existing potable Water Supply System (WSS) serving the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as Recipient, and the City of Plattsmouth, as Subrecipient, to eliminate the environmental and public health risks caused by floodwaters which render the system incapable of operating properly. Severe winter storms and high velocity winds caused widespread flooding throughout Cass County, Nebraska resulting in a Presidentially declared Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-DR-4420-NE, dated March 21st, 2019 and continuing, as amended. This declaration makes federal disaster assistance available to affected communities and certain nonprofit organizations in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act; 42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended. This Public Notice will also be published on the [City of Plattsmouth website](#).

The existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) serving the City of Plattsmouth was constructed above the floodplain of the Missouri River in 1972 with no means of flood protection. Over the past 48 years, the flood levels at the site have significantly increased and the facility is at risk from future natural disasters and flooding. The most recent damages occurred from flood waters in March 2019 when the Missouri River overtopped the plant, causing damages to the primary treatment and processing equipment as well as the access road. In addition, severe flooding and ice flows caused substantial damage to the systems 5 water supply wells and wellhouses. In all the water supply system (WSS) was inoperable for a total of 5 months. Safe drinking water is a prerequisite for protecting health and all human activity. Disruption of potable water treatment services can cause loss of life, economic impacts, and severe public health and environmental impacts.

The Proposed Action is to modify the WSS serving the City of Plattsmouth, to receive potable water from the Metropolitan Utility District (MUD) for distribution through the city's existing water distribution system. The proposed project would involve the construction of a new 7.5-mile-long, 20-inch diameter water main to connect the existing distribution system to the MUD treatment plant located along 36th Street in southern Sarpy County, NE. The new infrastructure would connect to the water distribution system near Avenue B and 16th Street in Plattsmouth and a small booster pump will be installed to ensure sufficient pressure for distribution. The work will be performed primarily within existing road right of ways and will utilize open trenching along the roadways as well as the jack and bore method where necessary to avoid waterways and other areas of concern. The existing WTP and municipal wells will be closed and secured by the city. The dismantling of the abandoned WTP and municipal wells is not included as part of this project or the environmental review and will be addressed under a separate action.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. The EA is available for public comment, and comments can be sent via email to kate.stojsavljevic@fema.dhs.gov. The EA will be available for download from FEMA's website at [Region 7 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic access to a physical copy of the EA available to the public will be limited to the Plattsmouth, City Hall, 136 N. 5th Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048 by request; call 402-296-2522 to request an appointment.

The comment period will end 30 days after the date of this publication on the FEMA website listed above. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or e-mailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA Region VII-DR 4420, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 11224 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131, or via email at kate.stojsavljevic@fema.dhs.gov.